

# Leveraging Funds for Effective Conservation in the Americas

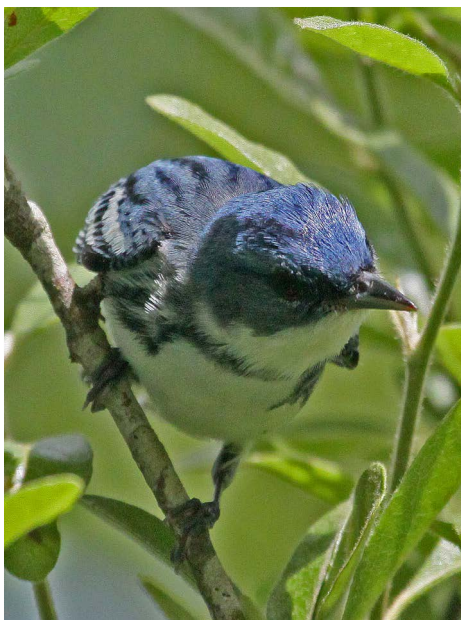
## *The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act*

### Catalyzing Conservation across the Western Hemisphere

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) projects benefit most of the 386 bird species that breed in the continental United States or Canada and spend the winter in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, or South America. These projects have positively affected **more than 3.7 million acres** of bird habitat and spurred partnerships at local, regional, and international levels.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act promotes long-term conservation of Neotropical migratory birds and their habitats through a competitive grants program, by:

- **sparking partnership-based** conservation, supporting hundreds of public-private collaborations;
- **energizing local**, on-the-ground conservation efforts;



*Cerulean warblers benefit from NMBCA funding that helps to protect critical habitat in Colombia*  
Credit: Jerry Oldenettel CC BY 2.0



*Red Knots are one of 386 Neotropical migratory species that benefit from NMBCA.*

Credit: Gregory Breese/USFWS

- **achieving habitat protection** and other critical bird conservation activities in 36 countries; and
- **building conservation** capacity in local organizations.

The goals of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act include perpetuating healthy bird populations, providing financial resources for bird conservation, and fostering international cooperation. Because the greatest need is south of

the U.S. border, at least 75 percent of the funding supports projects outside the United States. The grants program requires a partner-to-grant dollar match of 3 to 1. However it has achieved a **match ratio of nearly 4 to 1**, multiplying the program's on-the-ground investment at a rate that surpasses many other conservation grant programs. Each year, grant requests from qualified applicants far exceed the available funding, demonstrating strong demand and awareness of these resources.

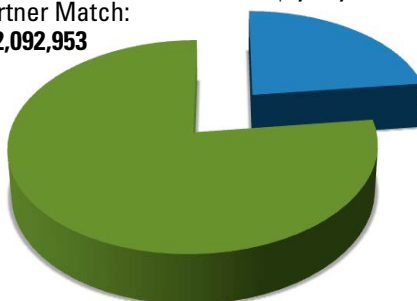
### 2014 Grants

2014 Projects: **29**

2014 Countries: **18**

Partner Match:  
**\$12,092,953**

Grant Funds:  
**\$3,621,082**



### Program Impacts since 2002

**Grant Funding:** \$50,121,000

**Matching Funds:** \$190,695,000

**Match Ratio:** 3.8 to 1

**Projects:** 451

**Countries:** 36

**Acres Affected:** 3,700,000

## 2014 Projects



### Key Habitats and Actions

The conversion of grasslands for agriculture is causing the number of grassland birds to decline rapidly. Conservation of these important ecosystems throughout the hemisphere is a high priority for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which has supported two large-scale conservation efforts aimed at conserving grasslands with annual grants over ten years.

Grants fund a broad array of efforts to conserve these and other threatened habitats including securing, restoring, and managing habitat; conducting law enforcement activities; providing community outreach and education; and supporting population research and monitoring.



*The Painted Bunting is another beneficiary of NMBCA funding.*  
Credit: USFWS

### Project Highlights



#### *Protecting Cerulean and Golden-Winged Warblers in Colombia, Phase II.*

Two of the most threatened neotropical migratory landbirds, the cerulean and golden-winged warblers, depend on tropical forests across Colombia for their survival. This project will protect 23 critical areas for the warblers. The project also incorporates ecotourism and sustainable development initiatives that benefit local communities.

phase of this ongoing NMBCA-funded effort, partners will continue to manage tropical savanna, short-grass and lake-edge habitat to benefit Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Project activities will also ensure law enforcement within the Barba Azul Nature Reserve.



#### *Conservation Action for Bicknell's Thrush on its Canadian Breeding Grounds III.*

The objectives of this project are to partner with timber companies and management agencies to develop and implement Best Management Practices and conduct targeted outreach in communities surrounding unprotected areas to secure long-term support for and protection of Bicknell's thrush and its habitat.



#### *Protecting Critical Stopover Habitat for the NMB Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Bolivia III.*

The Barba Azul Nature Reserve is a critical stop-over area in Bolivia for the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. In the third

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